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Andover, Feb. 1929.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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Andover Rural District Council Offices,

Junction Road,

Year 1939 Andover.

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Interim Report.

To the Andover Rural District Council,

This year I have been directed by the Ministry of Health (Circ. 2067 of 19/7/1940) to present an Interim Report to be confined to essential and urgent matters, affecting Public Health, especially those matters arising from or connected with the War and Outbreaks of Infectious Illness. The Annual Report proper (1939) is in draft form and will be preserved for use after the War, with the Statistics from the Registrar General (when received).

Matters affected or Caused by the War.

(1) Shipton Bellinger Drainage Scheme & Water Supply.

During the year the Water Supply at this village has been improved when new mains of increased size were constructed so that the supply of water was continuous. A complimentary measure to deal with this improved water supply was the provision of a sewage scheme. This has been recommended previously and was agreed to by the Parish of Shipton Bellinger in the early part of the year, and the scheme was submitted to the Ministry of Health. The War intervened before sanction could be obtained. On December 5th 1939 Mr. Ainsworth, an Inspector of the Ministry of Health held an inquiry at the village, and as a result the Ministry refused to grant leave to borrow the sum of £11753, the cost of the Scheme. As noted above this village now has a much increased and ample piped Water Supply but it still has to depend on cess pits for the disposal of its waste. In my opinion difficulties are bound to arise, and a proper sewage system is a necessity.

(2) Evacuation.

Early in September 1939 Southampton Borough evacuated:-

Children of school age	251
Children under school age	84
Expectant Mothers	5
Teachers, Helpers & other Mothers	89
	429

Detraining occurred at Andover Town Station and each train was met by either the M.O.H. of this District or the Andover Urban District. All children were conducted to Andover Grammar School where they were fed, sorted out for distribution and taken by car or bus to their village destinations. At the village they were conducted by the local billeting officer or his assistant to their billet. Only very few children and no expectant mothers required any urgent medical attention at the Grammar School. British Red Cross Nurses were in attendance to assist, and an ambulance was also available but not required. There was no time to carry out inspections for Verminous conditions or Scabies.

When schools re-opened the County Council Health Visitors made head inspections and did very valuable work in dealing with verminous conditions. As soon as possible these inspections were supplemented by visits of the School Medical Officer. At these visits particular attention was paid to (1) Verminous conditions, (2) Scabies, (3) ascertaining those children who were receiving medical treatment before evacuation especially eye and orthopoedic conditions so as to arrange for continuity of treatment.

School Medical Record cards were available for only a few children from their previous school. Where available they gave great help.

It was noted with surprise the large number of children with verminous heads, and to a less degree Scabies. They caused much worry and trouble in the homes they were billeted upon. Fortunately public opinion in this District is fairly strong that these conditions are not to be tolerated and many of the hostesses rose to the occasion in a really wonderful way and cleaned up the evacuee children. I wish to record the very valuable help and assistance they rendered. It is perhaps only fair to Southampton to state that these children were evacuated towards the end of the normal summer holiday, and that as the schools were closed, there was little chance for that Authority to organise proper investigation and treatment before evacuation occurred.

In addition to the Official Evacuee children there were a number of unofficial ones, some from London. There were children transferred to relations living in this District or families that came into this District owing to the father having work in the neighbourhood. These were investigated in the same way as for "official" evacuees.

Sick Bay Accommodation for evacuees needing more medical care than can be expected in billets was under consideration at the end of 1939. It was agreed by this Authority to join with other Authorities in forming a central Sick Bay Home at the Sanatorium of Wilton House Preparatory School, Winchester, but at the end of 1939 final arrangements had not been completed. This is for non-infective conditions. For severe Measlesand Whooping Cough additional accommodation has been recommended but at the end of 1939 no definite arrangements had been made. The idea then was for several Authorities to group themselves together to provide such accommodation in some central position and convenient in situation for the medical attendant.

By the end of the year a very large number of evacuees had returned to their homes.

Infectious Diseases.

(1) Notifications, Admission to Hospital, and Deaths.

	Total 1938	Total 1939	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	17*	13*	Weyhill Isola. Hos. 7 Tidworth Mil. Hos. 5+	-
Diphtheria	5*	6*	Weyhill Iso. Hos. 4. (2 not confirmed) Tidworth Mil. Hos.2 +	
Enteric & Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	10	8	-
Pneumonia	9*	5*	4*	1
Erysipelas	1	10	Weyhill Isol.Hosp. 6	-
Opthalmia neonatorium	3	6	3	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1+	2+	Tidworth Milty .Hosp. 2+	-
Whooping Cough	-	11	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-

* Includes Military Case + Military Cases only.

Scarlet Fever.

The civilian cases occurred at:- Tidworth (Married Quarters), 1 (January); Monxton, 1 (Jan.); Lower Clatford, 1 (March); Longparish, 4 (Oct. & Nov.); Weyhill Isolation Hospital, Complicating Whooping from Kingsclere & Whitchurch R.D.C. 2 (Nov.). One of the Longparish cases was so slight as to be "missed", and was only diagnosed when peeling and slight nephritis occurred. It was the first of the Longparish cases and was treated at home.

Diphtheria.

Two of the civilian cases were not confirmed after admission to Weyhill. Two others occurred in Married Quarters and Tidworth Camp and were admitted to the Military Isolation Hospital, Tidworth. The remaining two cases occurred at Little Park, Abbotts Ann in Evacuee children from Southampton and were admitted to Weyhill Isolation Hospital. One of these was a Nasel carrier but under treatment was cured.

Pneumonia.

One case was stated to be Influenzal in type.

Puerperal Pyrexia and Opthalmia Neonatorum.

All cases recovered satisfactorily.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

The expected epidemics of these illnesses in the Autumn did not occur.

2. Diphtheria Immunization. (Abridged Report and Statistics).

Progress of Work, down to 31st December 1939:-

Number of children,	completed 1936 - 8	272
" "	whose treatment began during 1938, and were completed during 1939	9
" "	, Completed during 1939	70
" "	whose treatment began during 1939, and were NOT completed on 31/12/39	38
	Total	389
Approx. number of children born 1931 - 38 (deaths in 1st year deducted)		1673.

The detailed Analysis given in former years is held over for the time being. Including incompleted cases on 31st December 1939, 117 have been treated, as contrasting with 76 for 1938. The progress of the work as a whole can be guaged by the fact that 22·0% of children born between 1931 - 8 have been immunized; this contrasts with 19·1% for similar figure for 1938.

In the earlier part of 1939 the "consents" had been coming in very well indeed, but the War has interrupted this seriously and the General Practitioners, who carry out the treatment, are so busy that treatment is not given as quickly as formerly, note 38 remain for completion at the end of the year.

Cost of Scheme. This applies to 79 completed cases, and the cost of materials only for 38 incompleted cases.

Total Expenses	1939	1938
Doctors's Fees & Travelling Expenses	£39. 15. 6	£31. 1. 0
Cost of T.A.F.	£16. 5. 10	£ 9. 1. 6
Postages, etc.	£ 1. 0. 10	15. 6
Total	£57. 2. 2	£40. 18. 0

	1939. s. d.	1938. s. d.	Estimated Cost at Inception of Scheme s. d.
Dr. Fees & Travelling Expenses	10. 0·8	9. 3·2	9. 0
Cost of T.A.F.	3. 0·2	3· 0·9	4. 0
Postages, etc.	3·2	2·8	4
	13. 4·2	12. 6·9	13. 4

Increased travelling by Doctors is the main cause of increase in Dr. fees. This is due to parents wishing the Doctor to attend at their home, since it is more difficult for them to attend at the Surgery by reason of curtailment of Bus Services, and children billeted upon them. This item is likely to increase.

3. Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the number of new cases notified and the deaths. Military Cases are included.

			1939	1938
New Cases.	i. Respiratory,	Males	10	4
		Females	4	3
	ii. Non Respiratory,	Males	3	3
		Females	1	1
Deaths:	i. Respiratory	Males	2	3
		Females	1	2
	ii. Non Respiratory	Males	-	-
		Females	-	-

The age period distribution of the above figures is held over until after the War.

Number of cases on the Register, end 1939 - 33
end 1938 - 40

Notification is satisfactory. No case was removed to Hospital by compulsion. No action was required with regard to a patient being employed in the Milk Trade.

August 19th 1940.

William Simpson,
M.O.H.

Andover R. D. C.